--- RG-654 - 5 Cigars - Series “C” - 1938 - *perforated 11* - 22 x 28 mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

The hidden letters on the small five cigar dusky green Series “C” are “H-M”, and Chris Ryan reports that the die had been submitted for approval on May 31st 1938. The initial copy of the *imperforate* **RG-653** date coded by “General Cigars”, Montreal, is found in January 1939, and their first listed copy of the *perforated* **RG-654** also comes from January 1939. Beginning in August 1939, a ***weekly numeric code*** was prefixed to the monthly letter code. They were printed in sheets of 130 stamps – probably 13 x 10.

Generally speaking, the *perforated* stamp was used on *imported packages*, and was hand-attached at Customs, or in the presence of the Port Collector or his delegate, while the *imperforate* was affixed by machine in the plant of manufacture.

RG-654 - 5 cigars, coded **CJB / 6-10D** by “General Cigars”, Montreal, in June 1939

[RG-654]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1939	AJA	---	---	AJB	BJB	CJB	AJC	---	---	---	---	---

Beginning in August 1939, a ***weekly numeric code*** was prefixed to the monthly letter code. The use of the *perforated* five cigar **RG-654** by “General Cigars”, Montreal, seems to fill in most of the code-gaps in the listing of the *imperforate* **RG-653** which follows in a couple of pages.

2 AJD - 2nd week of October 1939

3 AKA - 3rd week of January 1940

[RG-654]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1939	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2AJD	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3AJD	3BJD	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1940	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1BKC	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	2CKB	---	---	---	2AKD	---	---
	3AKA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The initial copy of the *imperforate* **RG-653** coded by “General Cigars”, Montreal, is found in January 1939.

RG-653 - 5 cigars, coded **AJB / 6-10D** by “General Cigars”, Montreal, in April 1939

[RG-654]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1939	AJA	BJA	CJA	AJB	BJB	CJB	---	BJC	---	---	---	---

Beginning in August 1939, a ***weekly numeric code*** was prefixed to the monthly letter code. The use of the *imperforate* five cigars **RG-653** by “General Cigars”, Montreal, seems to fill in most of the code-gaps in the previous *perforated* listing of **RG-654**. Dating from August 1939, the addition of the prefix cannot indicate production under the First Wartime Budget which was not tabled in the House until September 12th 1939.

The collection contains a copy of **RG-653** for January 1943 coded **2 AOA** in addition to the normal coding for January of **2 ANA**. This is unusual, and is the only example that I have seen. For all practical purposes the use of **RG-653** ceased in April 1947, and later usage was exceptional.

3 BJC- the 3rd week of August 1939

2 ANA and **2 AOA** - both are from the 2nd week of January 1943

[RG-653]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1939	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1AJD	1BJD	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2BJD	2CJD
	---	---	---	---	---	---	3AJC	3BJC	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4CJD
1940	---	1BKA	---	1AKB	1BKB	---	---	---	1CKC	1AKD	---	---
	---	---	2CKA	2A KB	2BKB	2CKB	2AKC	2BKC	---	2AKD	2BKD	---
	3AKA	---	---	---	---	---	---	3BKC	---	3AKD	---	3CKD
	4AKA	---	---	---	---	4CKB	---	4BKC	---	---	4BKD	---

[RG-653]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1941	1ALA	1BLA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1ALD	1BLD	1CLD
	---	---	---	---	---	2CLB	---	2BLC	---	2ALD	---	2CLD
	---	3BLA	3CLA	---	3BLB	---	3ALC	3BLC	3CLC	3ALD	3BLD	3CLD
	---	4BLA	---	---	---	---	4ALC	4BLC	4CLC	4ALD	---	4CLD
1942	1AMA	---	1CMA	---	1BMB	1CMB	1AMC	---	---	1AMD	1BMD	1CMD
	---	2BMA	2CMA	2AMB	2BMB	2CMB	---	---	---	2AMD	---	2CMD
	3AMA	3BMA	---	3AMB	3BMB	3CMB	---	3BMC	3CMC	3AMD	3BMD	3CMD
	4AMA	4BMA	4CMA	---	---	4CMB	4AMC	4BMC	4CMC	4AMD	---	4CMD
1943	---	1BOA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1AOD	---	1COD
	2ANA	---	---	2AOB	2BOB	2COB	2AOC	2BOC	2COC	---	2BOD	2COD
	---	3BOA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3AOD	---	3COD
	4ANA	4BOA	4COA	4AOB	4BOB	4COB	---	---	---	---	---	4COD
1944	---	---	1CPA	1APB	1BPB	1CPB	1APC	1BPC	1CPC	1APD	1BPD	1CPD
	2APA	2BPA	2CPA	2APB	2BPB	2CPB	2APC	---	2CPC	2APD	2BPD	2CPD
	---	3BPA	---	3APB	---	3CPB	3APC	3BPC	3CPC	3APD	3BPD	---
	4APA	---	4CPA	4APB	4BPB	4CPB	---	4BPC	4CPC	4APD	4BPD	---
1945	---	1BSA	1CSA	1ASB	1BSB	1CSB	1ASC	1BSC	1CSC	---	1BSD	1CSD
	2ASA	2BSA	2CSA	2ASB	2BSB	2CSB	2ASC	---	2CSC	2ASD	2BSD	2CSD
	3ASA	3BSA	3CSA	3ASB	3BSB	3CSB	3ASC	3BSC	3CSC	3ASD	3BSD	---
	4ASA	4BSA	4CSA	---	4BSB	4CSB	4ASC	4BSC	4CSC	4ASD	4BSD	4CSD
1946	1ATA	1BTA	1CTA	1ATB	---	1CTB	---	1BTC	---	1ATD	1BTD	1CTD
	2ATA	2BTA	2CTA	---	2BTB	2CTB	2ATC	2BTC	---	---	2BTD	---
	3ATA	3BTA	3CTA	3ATB	---	3CTB	3ATC	---	---	3ATD	3BTD	3CTD
	---	---	4CTA	4ATB	4BTB	4CTB	4ATC	---	---	4ATD	4BTD	---
1947	---	1BVA	1CVA	1AVB	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	2AVA	2BVA	2CVA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	3AVA	BVA	3CVA	3AVB	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	4AVA	4BVA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1948	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1949	---	---	1CBB	---	---	---	---	1BBC	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1950	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3ACD	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Judging by the collected copies of the ***green*** **RG-653**, by 1947-48 the six cigar pack using the ***orange-red*** **RG-655** was in general production, and the five cigar package was only an occasional item.

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1938 - Series C \ 6-10D \ 5 Cigars],
in MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
October 22nd 2013, JBH